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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-8429-81
24 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Assessment: Latin America

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7. Argentina

The advent of General Galtieri, who replaces the relatively conciliatory General Viola as President, has potential effects on several fronts. The Chileans probably will see it as an indication the Argentines will take an even firmer line in the longstanding Beagle Channel dispute. We do not, however, see any near-term

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prospects for hostilities. The ascendance of Galtieri could also signal a further slowing of the already modest political normalization, with a consequent sharpening of civil-military tensions. Finally, Galtieri may initially have the power to make economic policy more coherent, but over time may have to devote more and more time to political problems and watching potential military rivals to the detriment of economic strategy.

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Constantine C. Menges

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